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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,532	02/19/2002	Hiroshi Tsunoda	020191	1666

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EXAMINER

CHOWDHURY, NIGAR

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,532

Applicant(s)

TSUNODA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Nigar Chowdhury

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 08/25/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In re pages 6-7, applicant argues that Okada does not disclose "compressing each of the image signals into a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ of the first size" and "each recording zone has the same first size, or that "each of the images signals is equal to or smaller than.... The first size"" as recited in claim 1.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Okada discloses in Col. 3 lines 17-27, that "in the recording mode, the DSP 22 reduces a photographed image to $1/n$ according to the change in n can be changed". Image can be compressed in to second size of $1/n$ and also n can be changed for compression purpose. Recording zone can store images without compressing and also can store images after compressing into second size.

In re pages 7-8, applicant argues that Okada does not disclose "said recorder includes a searcher for searching unit recording zones each of which is in a vacant state" as recited in claim 2.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Okada discloses in Col. 4 lines 10-12, that "When the recording/reproduction memory 20, and resets its internal counter m to 0 (S_2)" and Col. 4 lines 36-44, that "When the images in the second area

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is to be recorded on the magnetic disc.....ID signal is recorded at the same time...photographed images". Okada discloses ID information with image information. User can easily search recording zone through ID to find out the information to retrieve or to record information after that if the area is vacant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada as set forth in the last office action.
2. Regarding claim 1, an image recording apparatus which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:
 - An inputter for inputting the image signals (Fig. 1, Col. 2 line 18-40, Col. 3 line 37-40)

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- A compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size (Col. 3 line 16-27)
- A recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones (Col. 3 line 41-50).

3. Referring claim 2, an image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein recorder includes a searcher for searching unit recording zones each of which is in a vacant state (Col. 4 line 10-12), a writer for writing the compressed image signals into the unit recording zones discovered by searcher (Col. 4 line 26-36), and a creator for creating link information indicating a link state of the unit recording zones in which the compressed image signals are written (Col. 4 line 37-41).

4. Regarding claim 3, an image recording apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising: (Col.4 line 37-50)

- An assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed image signals
- An acceptor for accepting a restoring instruction of link information
- A restorer for restoring link information on the basis of identifying number in accepting restoring instruction

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5. Regarding claim 5, an image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein $N \geq 2$ is true, and recorder includes a detector for detecting a difference between each size of the compressed image signals and the second size, and a former for forming an interval equivalent to the difference between a compressed image signal to be recorded this time and a compressed image signal to be recorded next time in the same unit recording zone (Col. 3 line 17-50).

6. Referring claim 6, an image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein compressor repeatedly carries out a compression process up to each size of the compressed image signals being equal to or smaller than $1/N$ of the first size (Col. 3 line 16-27).

7. Regarding claim 9, an image recording apparatus, comprising

- A holder for holding (Fig. 1, recording apparatus holding recording medium 32) a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed
- A compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images (Col. 2 lines 39) up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size (Col. 3 line 16-27)
- A recorder for recording compressed still images created by the compressor into the unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone (Col. 3 line 41-50).

- A link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones (Col. 4 line 37-41)
8. Claim 11 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding claim 3 above.
9. Claims 13, 14 are rejected for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding claims 5, and 6 respectively above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 4, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada.
11. Referring claim 4, Okada teaches an image recording apparatus has a compressor to compress image to $1/N$, wherein $N=16$. Okada fails to teach $N=1$, and recorder brings a forefront of each of the compressed image signals into being coincident with a forefront of each of the unit recording zones.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have compression $N=1$ to maintain the quality of image without losing any information.

12. Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in corresponding claim 4 above.

13. Claims 7, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,795 by Takahashi et al.

14. Regarding claim 7, Okada teaches an image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the image signals is a still image but Okada fails to teach JPEG format.

Takahashi teaches JPEG format of still picture (Fig. 2, Fig. 4, Col. 1 line 29-31)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have compression process in accordance with a JPEG format to reduce the cost of the reproducing system.

15. Claim 15 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in corresponding claim 7 above.

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16. Claims 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, 8/6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,003,154 by Peker et al.

17. Regarding claim 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, 8/6, Okada teaches a recording apparatus which records compressed image (Fig. 1, Col. 2 line 10-39) but Okada fails to teach a surveillance camera provided with an image recording apparatus.

Peker teaches surveillance camera to keep a close watch (Col. 7 line 66-Col. 8 line 5, 12-15)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a surveillance camera to keep a close watch in different place.

18. Claim 8/7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,795 by Takahashi et al. and U.S. Patent No. 7,003,154 by Peker et al.

19. Regarding claim 8/7, Okada teaches an image recording apparatus wherein each of the image signals is a still image but Okada fails to teach JPEG format and surveillance camera.

Takahashi teaches JPEG format of still picture (Fig. 2, Fig. 4, Col. 1 line 29-31)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have compression process in accordance with a JPEG format to reduce the cost of the reproducing system.

Okada and Takahashi both fails to teach surveillance camera. Peker teaches surveillance camera to keep a close watch (Col. 7 line 66-Col. 8 line 5, 12-15)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a surveillance camera to keep a close watch in different place.

20. Claim 16 is reject for the same reason as discussed in corresponding claim 8/1 above

21. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,928,229 by Okada.

22. Regarding claim 10, Okada discloses plurality of still images but Okada fails to discloses plurality of still images represents motion images.

It is noted that the use of motion images is old and well-known in the recording art. Therefore, official notice is taken. Moreover, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a well-known motion images for the viewer to keep memories for later use

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(1) 6,487,366 (2) 6,424,788

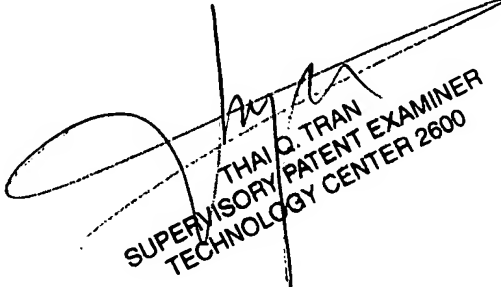
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nigar Chowdhury whose telephone number is 571-272-8890. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NC
11/13/2006


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